

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, 6 June, 2006,
1:00p.m. (HST) **Location:** DTS and telephone conference

Subject: Environmental Justice (EJ) coordination meeting with FHWA

Attendees: Vince Mammano, Jodi Chew, Elizabeth Fisher, FHWA
Faith Miyamoto, Phyllis Kurio, Kenneth Banao, Strather Ing, DTS
Lawrence Spurgeon, Veronica Chan, PB

Summary:

- The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to locate where “communities of concern” (minority and low-income populations) exist, determine potential disproportionate and adverse impacts to them, and document consideration of EJ and Title VI concerns. The results reported in *Environmental Justice in the Planning Process: Defining Environmental Justice Populations* (OMPO, March 2004) are being used to develop a community profile of the study corridor as described in the project methodology.
- PB provided background on the project indicating that the project development process would consist of an Alternatives Analysis (AA), followed by a Draft EIS for the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Currently, the focus is on the AA that would be used as a screening tool for the selection of the LPA and is not a full disclosure document.
- FHWA indicated that if Highway funds are involved, then HDOT should also be involved. Rey Domingo is the head of the HDOT Civil Rights Division. DTS has met with Ben Gorospe in regards to EJ for the proposed project. FHWA, as well as HDOT, will be receiving an invitation letter to be a cooperating agency.
- FHWA indicated that if the project changes from the STIP, the project may be delayed due to nonconformance. The STIP is not anticipated to be approved until 2007. PB stated that pre-engineering is not anticipated to start until 2007 and construction is anticipated to start in 2009.
- PB proposed the following evaluation method for the HHCTC project [as shown in the EJ Analysis Flow Chart (handout)]:
 - 1) Analyze low income or minority EJ areas as reported by OMPO. PB indicated that it understood that, in the past, FHWA has suggested that *Environmental Justice in the Planning Process: Defining Environmental Justice Populations* (March 2004) be used for baseline conditions for projects on Oahu. PB will be using the OMPO identified minority and low income EJ areas.
 - 2) Analyze existing linguistically isolated households using the threshold identified in the methodology. FHWA will provide additional information on literacy data.
 - 3) Refine the preliminary results of census data with qualitative analysis (“secondary assessment”) based on other existing data sources and local knowledge.
- FHWA had a comment that the title of the flowchart should not be just “Environmental Justice Analysis” because there are other elements in the flowchart. The flowchart should also distinguish those elements that are not defined as EJ.
- FHWA asked whether DTS was analyzing transit oriented development in regards

to EJ and economically disadvantaged communities. Transit oriented development offers opportunities to connect and develop communities. DTS should consider ADA guidelines. The elevated structures would be accessible by elevators; however, elevators add maintenance and cost factors. In the event that an elevator breaks down, non-mechanical alternatives must be available. Bike and pedestrian access should also be considered. Access to stations from outside facilities (crosswalks, etc.) should be addressed.

- FHWA asked what steps have been taken so far to outreach to linguistically isolated populations. PB indicated that during the scoping process, ethnic newspapers and media outlets were provided with a translated advertisement to announce. Service providers, churches, and ethnic markets were provided with translated newsletters with information on how to request translated material. The next step will be a feed back loop to the public outreach team to identify which languages are the most important and where. The goal will be to match those future transit stops with the appropriate translation media and services. The Speakers Bureau members have been distributing translated materials, if necessary. However, all questions have been asked in English so far and no translation services have been necessary during the Speakers Bureau presentations. FHWA suggested that DTS provide Speakers Bureau presentations to agencies, such as HDOT/FHWA, for informal discussion and dissemination to the agency staff. These staff members are often active members of the community and can provide a conduit for dissemination of information.
- FHWA suggested that both HDOT highway planning and design branches be involved in discussions. Ron Tsuzuki and Dean Nakagawa are potential contacts. Discussions with the Harbors and Airports Divisions have already occurred so that the transit project can be coordinated with any planned changes.
- FHWA indicated that HDOT should be included in every discussion with FHWA. HDOT should be involved with the planning level analysis, while FHWA acts as oversight. After receipt of the requests to be cooperating agencies, the teams should meet and talk about the project and study approach.

Actions Required:	1. DTS to coordinate with HDOT on cooperating agency status and involvement. 2. DTS to set up Speakers Bureau presentation for HDOT/FHWA.
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Meeting Attendees

The above meeting summary is believed to be accurate to the best of the author's knowledge. Meeting attendees are encouraged to send corrections and addenda to the content of these minutes. If no corrections and/or addenda are received within five days from the circulation date of this report, these minutes will be construed as the official record.